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The Greek Period

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OUTLINE STUDY OF GRECIAN HISTORY

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GEOGRAPHY OF GREECE.

1. It is important to study the topography, position and climate of Greece before beginning its history ; for all these had great influence upon the people.

Topography. The surface has great diversity. There are high mountains, beautiful valleys, and well watered plains. The country, which is about the size of Scotland, may be divided into Northern, Central and Southern Greece.

In the Northern division the most famous district is Thessaly, containing the highest mountain in Greece, Olympus, (9700 feet,) with the smaller peaks, Ossa and Pelion, and the Vale of Tempe. Olympus, on account of its height, was fabled to be the home of the gods, while Ossa and Pelion, so runs the story, were piled one upon the other by the giants in their vain attempt to overthrow the immortals.

Central Greece has eleven districts, of which the most famous were Phocis, Bœotia and Attica. In Phocis was the renowned oracle of Delphi ; in Bœotia the city of Thebes, and in Attica the city of Athens. On the isthmus leading to the Peloponnesus, was Corinth, one of the richest maritime cities of the ancient world.

In Southern Greece, called Peloponnesus, the chief districts are Arcadia and Laconia. The former, cut off by mountains, was the home of a simple pastoral people. In Laconia was Sparta. Athens, Thebes and Sparta were the great cities of historic Greece.

(For further information see Clare's "History of the World," Vol. 2, Chap. 13 ; Grote's "History of Greece" or the ENCYCOPEDIA BRITANNICA.)

2. *Position.* The position of Greece in the Mediterranean between Italy and Asia was favorable to commerce. There were many excellent harbors and no part of the country was more than forty miles from the sea. Through commerce Greece came in touch with the Phœnicians and acquired not only wealth, but also the germs of her civilization. The Phœnicians had weights and measures, an alphabet and knew how to dye cloth and work in metals. The Greeks had cereals, wool and timber, which they readily exchanged.

Climate. The climate was seldom too hot or too cold. It was peculiarly suitable for the athletic games that formed an important part of Greek life. Never was there a country better adapted to the growth of a great civilization.

Islands and Colonial Settlements. The Greeks at an early period spread over the Ægean Islands, the coast of Asia Minor, Southern Italy and Sicily. Hence these districts must be included in the history of Greece. "Wherever there were Hellenes, there was Hellas."

Map Study. Find on the map all the divisions and the cities mentioned? Trace the chief mountain ranges?

3. *The People.* The Greeks (they call themselves Hellenes from the fabled ancestor of the race,) if we may take their language as a test, belonged to the Aryan family. The earliest inhabitants of the country were the Pelasgians, of whom little is known.

Tribes. The four tribes of Hellenes were the Achæan, the Æolians, the Dorian and the Ionian. To the Dorian belonged the Spartans and to the Ionian the Athenians, the two most important of the tribes in historic times. The people not of Hellenic origin were called "barbarians," which at first meant simply "unintelligible folk," but afterwards "the uncivilized."

The Greeks, especially the Ionians, were quick to assimilate whatever was best in the art, the literature, or the government of other people. However, though they borrowed the germs of their civilization, they were intensely original in the development of those germs. They possessed the originality of genius.

Unfortunately the Greeks were too often divided against themselves. Each city had its own government, its own army or fleet. In union there would have been strength. When finally they began to combine in the Achæan League (240 B. C.), it was too late.

4. *Religion.* The Greeks worshipped many gods. The chief deities were Zeus (Latin Jupiter), Here (Juno) his wife, Athene (Minerva) who sprang from his brain, and Apollo, the sun-god. The gods were generally "magnified human beings," gifted with greater power and wisdom and endowed with immortality. They had the faults and virtues of the Greeks themselves. As the Greeks advanced in civilization, their religion became purer and higher. Zeus personified power; Minerva, wisdom; and Apollo, inspiration.

Heroes. From the gods were descended the heroes, and from the heroes, the Greeks, like all primitive people, often traced their own descent. It is a great aid to know something of the myths or legends of Greece; for while they may contain only a few grains of truth, they tell us what the Greeks thought about their ancestors and their deeds; and, as the Greeks believed the legends to be true, they were much influenced by them in forming their own characters.

The legendary period extends from 1550 (?) to 776 B. C. (Read in an Encyclopedia or Clare's "History of the World," Vol. 2 Chap. 13, Sec. 2, the stories of Cadmus, Pelops, Cecrops, Theseus, and Hercules.)

Homer's Iliad and Odyssey. The great sources of our knowledge concerning the gods and many of the heroes are the two poems of Homer (about 800 B. C.)

Some modern critics think that these poems should be attributed to a number of different authors, but the weight of authority is in favor of a single author. The story of the Trojan War and of the wanderings of Ulysses, as related by Homer, are epics in hexameter verse. It is one of the great classics of the world.*

Society in the Heroic Age. The society represented in Homer is rude and primitive, but adorned by many of the virtues that we value in modern times. It is instructive to compare this early society with that of the more refined Periclean Age.

5. *Oracles.* Closely connected with the religion of the Greeks were the Oracles. In the times portrayed by Homer the gods came down and mingled in the affairs of men; in later times they spoke through oracles. The most famous of these was that of Apollo at Delphi. Here a priestess, inspired, it was said, by the vapor that

*A very popular translation of Homer is that of Wm. Cullen Bryant, our American poet. For the excavations made at Troy, see Dr. Schliemann's great book in any large library.

issued from a cleft in the rock, gave the answer of the god to all questions. This oracle was appealed to by the whole Hellenic world. Its answers, though often given in silly riddles, were as often marked by practical wisdom. At last, however, the priests in attendance were bribed to give certain answers, and when this was discovered, men began to lose faith in the miraculous utterances. For ages, however, this oracle tended to unite Greece by a common sentiment.

The Games. Another unifying influence was found in the national games. The most famous of these were the Olympian, celebrated to the honor of Zeus every fourth year in the Peloponnesus. There were foot races, horse races, chariot races, and many other kinds of contests. The victor received no reward except a crown of wild olive, but his victory made him a hero through Greece. Poets sang his praises, and his native state set up a statue to him. All the cities, even those of lower Italy, sent their most famous athletes to contend. These games influenced the history of Greece through a period of a thousand years. The Olympiad of 776 B. C. is the first historical date in Greek history.

PERIOD OF DEVELOPMENT, 776-500 B. C.

6. *Forms of Government.* Nearly all the cities of Greece developed the same forms of government. At first in the heroic age they were governed by kings. Then in historical times, the power of the kings began to decline, and there followed an oligarchic government or government of a few leading nobles. In general these oligarchies misgoverned the people, until in desperation some man of ability seized the reins of government by a revolution and made himself a tyrant. (Term used to indicate an unconstitutional ruler, not necessarily a despot.)

The rule of tyrants was often wise. They won popularity by beautifying the cities, and by showing favor to artists and poets; but they rarely held power more than two generations. To the tyrant there generally succeeded a democracy or rule of the people through popular assemblies, as in Athens under Pericles.*

(Read lives of Lycurgus and Solon in Plutarch. See *Claire's History*, Vol. 2. Pages 503-508.)

*Aristotle held that all democracies must commit excesses and be in turn upset by some Cæsar, who restores order, and completes the Cycle. Is this true of Modern times?

SPARTA.

7. The people were Dorians, and were divided into three classes. These were (1) the Spartans, descended from the Dorian conquerors; (2) the Periocci, a conquered race, which paid tribute to the Spartans, and (3) Helots, who were serfs belonging to the State. The last could be put to death without trial, and it is said they were sometimes forced to intoxicate themselves for the express purpose of giving the Spartan youths an object lesson, by teaching them to abhor drunkenness. The Helots worked the land, and brought their masters (they were distributed among the land-owners) a certain amount of oil, wheat and wine every year.

Education and Civilization. The ideal of Spartan law-givers was to make a race of soldiers. Young children regarded as sickly were exposed by the state to die in some mountain glen, while the sturdy ones from the age of seven were educated by public officers. There were common tables and black broth for all citizens. The Spartans despised books, but made the youths recite martial songs, and exercise the body in athletics. The girls also were trained in athletics. Fortitude and patriotism were the chief virtues. "Return with your shield or upon it," was the admonition of every Spartan mother. Children were allowed to steal their food, but, if detected, were punished.

Under this system Sparta produced a fine race of warriors, but contributed nothing to the world in art, literature, or ethics. Nay, the lack of moral fortitude often defeated the results of their physical fortitude; for the Spartan leaders were notoriously open to bribery. The lesson that we learn from Sparta is that the body must not be cultivated at the expense of the mind and heart. (Clare's History, Vol. 2, Chap. 13, Sec. 7.)

8. *The Spartan Lycurgus, 800 .B C. (?)* The system of life just described was attributed to Lycurgus. He is also said to have established the earliest constitution of Sparta. The truth seems to be that he reorganized the government and made it stable. There were two kings, reigning jointly; a Senate or Council of Elders, and an assembly of freemen. The two kings were the leaders in war and the high priests. In conservative Sparta there was no change in methods of government except the following:

Ephors. After the time of Lycurgus, great powers were given to five officers of the State called Ephors, elected by the assembly. They gradually obtained the chief authority, both the Kings and Senate being subordinated.

Sparta Supreme in Peloponneses (560 B. C.) Two centuries after Lycurgus, the Spartans by conquest or alliance had become supreme in Peloponneses, though the body of citizens was never more than 10,000. The system of Lycurgus seemed justified by its success.

QUESTIONS. "What was the Crypteia? What is the derivation of Laconia? On what river was Sparta located? Near what mountains? Name the two kings who ruled Sparta at the same time?

9. *Athens.* Before the 7th century B. C. the history of Athens is obscure, and the city seems to have had little prominence in Greece. In this century, however, the office of King became unimportant and the chief authority was vested in an Archon. About 620 B. C. an oligarchy was established, consisting of nine Archons, and a council of Ex-archons called the Areopagus.

Functions. The chief officer was the Archon Eponymus, who gave his name to the year and was president of the State. Next to him was the King-Archon, who was the religious head of the State; and the third Archon was the Polemarch, who was minister of war, and commander of the army. The other six Archons had charge of the various departments of justice—with the exception of the court for homicide.

The Areopagus. This venerable assembly had jurisdiction over cases of homicide, and elected the Archons. Later, under Solon, it had jurisdiction over the morals of citizens, a censorship. Before this assembly the Apostle Paul spoke at Athens.

Divisions of Society. Society was divided into three classes (i. e.) the Eupatridae, or men of aristocratic birth; the Geomori, or husbandmen; and the Demiurgi, or Artisans.* As yet the governing class was the Eupatridae. Hence the lower classes were discontented and inclined to rebellion. (Clare's History, Vol. 2, Chap. 13, Sec. 8.)

10. *Education and Civilisation.* Education in Athens was far more liberal than at Sparta. Athletics were not neglected, but reading, writing, and music were taught in the schools. To listen to

*A fourth class, the slaves might be added. These, though very numerous, gave no trouble. Their labor gave leisure to the Athenians.

the great orators was an education in itself. In art, literature and statesmanship Athens became the light of the ancient world.

The early law-givers, Draco and Solon, 620-560 B. C. Out of the popular discontent arose the necessity for a change of government. The first to codify the laws was Draco. His enactments were so severe that it was said they were written in "blood rather than in ink," but their severity has doubtless been exaggerated. Naturally, however, the new code did not improve the condition of the masses. Solon, (Archon in 594 B. C.) belonged to the higher class, but extended the power of the masses by substituting a timocracy for the existing aristocracy, (i. e.) a government by wealth rather than by birth. The people were divided into four classes according to the number of bushels of wheat they received annually from landed property.* The Archons were chosen from the richest class, but as wealth was now the passport to this class, wealthy men of lower orders were able to obtain office.

Senate. Solon established a Senate of 400, which prepared the measures to be brought before the assembly.

Archons. These officers were now elected by lot from a number of candidates offered by the four tribes.*

11. *Ecclesia, or Public Assembly.* Solon strengthened this body, which up to this time had no political functions, by giving it not only the veto power on all measures, but also the privilege of trying all magistrates at the end of the year to see if they had done their duty. Thus Solon boasted that he had made a wise division of power among the different classes. (Read the life of Solon in Plutarch. See Clare's History, Vol. 2. pp. 603, 607, 617, 618.)

The Debtors. The debtor class, especially the small farmers, were in a wretched condition. They were constantly sold into slavery (see 2 Kings IV: 1). Solon abolished slavery for debt, and relieved the farmers of their mortgages. Many other excellent regulations are attributed to Solon. Under him Athens seemed to be taking a step in the direction of a democracy.

(For this statement, see Oman's recent History of Greece.)

The Rise of Tyrants. There was, however, much discontent. The moderation of Solon satisfied no one. The lower classes wanted more power, the richer classes wanted to give them less.

*These tribes were the so-called Cultivators, Warriors, Goat-herds, and Artisans. Such tribes existed in all Ionic communities.

Pisistratus (500 B. C.). Finally a tyrant named Pisistratus seized the government. He, however, ruled wisely. Scholars and artists were invited to Athens, and the tyrant built temples and added to the glory of the national festivals.

This was also a period of extensive colonization.

Cleisthenes, 508 B. C. The sons of Pisistratus having been driven out with the aid of Sparta, Cleisthenes espoused the popular cause, and revised the constitution. The ten tribes into which he divided the Athenians included all the free inhabitants of Attica and some that were not wholly free.

The Ecclesia now became more powerful than ever before, for its decrees were laws, and it received the privilege of electing the archons.

Ostracism, a curious method of banishing an unpopular leader, originated with Cleisthenes. This statesman may be called the founder of the Athenian democracy.

(Authorities for this and subsequent period. "The Constitution of the Athenians," Ms. recently discovered in Egypt and believed to be the work of Aristotle. Also Herodotus, and among the Moderns, Grote and Curtius.)

QUESTIONS.—Name the four original tribes of Athens? How many classes of citizens? What were they? Who wrote the severe code of laws of which it was said "They were written in blood instead of ink?" Who were the "Seven wise men of Greece?"

GREECE AT WAR WITH PERSIA, 500-479 B. C.

12. In the previous outline of Ancient History (No. 1 p. 16) it was stated that the most important event in the reign of Darius, King of the Medo-Persians, was an unsuccessful attempt to conquer Greece. Let us now consider this great war from the Grecian side.

Cause of the War. The alleged cause of the war against Greece was the assistance given by the Greeks in the destruction of Sardis, one of the Persian capitals in Asia Minor. But the real cause was the desire of the Persian monarchs to make themselves masters of Greece and attach it to their dominions.

First Expedition, 490 B. C. An expedition sent out under Mardonius failed to reach Greece. His fleet was wrecked in a hurricane and his army cut to pieces by wild Thracian tribes.

Marathon, 490 B. C. In 490 another expedition, consisting of 120,000 men and 600 ships, was sent by Darius to invade Greece. At Marathon the invaders were met by 10,000 Athenians and Platæ-

ans under Miltiades. Sparta failed to send help, but in spite of the disparity of numbers, the Greeks were victorious. This was one of the "Fifteen decisive battles of the world." (See Creasy's work and compare Arbela, 331 B. C.) It decided that Greece, instead of becoming a slave to Eastern despotism, was to work out its own free civilization. It gave the Greeks confidence in themselves and nerved them for future victories. By this battle, therefore, the world was a great gainer.

The Famous Rivals. The two leading statesmen of Athens at this epoch were Themistocles and Aristides. Aristides, known as "the Just," was a man of perfect integrity, but of too conservative a spirit. Themistocles was a far-seeing statesman, a man of genius, but he was selfish and not thoroughly honest. The policy of Aristides was to confine Athens to the land. Themistocles believed his city must become a naval power, and he urged the creation of a navy. Finally Aristides was ostracised, and the navy was built. The result proved the policy of Themistocles to be the wiser. (See Clare's History, Vol. 2, Chap. 13, Sec. 10.)

13. *Xerxes, 480 B. C.* Darius was succeeded by his son Xerxes, who determined to avenge the defeat at Marathon. Every portion of the Persian Empire furnished its quota of troops, and an immense navy was collected. Forty-six nations, we are told, marched across the Hellespont under the standards of the king. The land and naval force amounted at the lowest estimate to 900,000 men, and at the highest to 2,317,000. The attempt to feed this host impoverished many cities.

Thermopylæ, 480 B. C. At Thermopylæ the Spartan Leonidas with 300 Spartans and 6,000 allies withstood the whole Persian army until he was surrounded and crushed by numbers. It is one of the famous battles of the world. (See "Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World" by Creasy and Clare's History, Vol. 2, pp. 626-8.)

Salamis, 480 B. C. Athens was then occupied by the enemy and burned, but the Athenians had taken refuge on board their ships. At Salamis, Themistocles, now joined by the exile Aristides, defeated the fleet of Xerxes, while the Persian monarch himself, from a lofty cliff, looked down upon the ruin.

This great victory practically ended the Persian invasion, and great was the rejoicing throughout Greece. Immense offerings of gold and silver were vowed to the gods.

See the story in Herodotus, a contemporary. Find the battle fields on the map? Compare the defeat of the Spanish Armada in Elizabeth's time?

ATHENS SUPREME IN GREECE, 479-431 B. C.

14. *Confederacy of Delos, 447 B. C.* To protect Greece and the Ægean cities and islands from the Persians, Athens under the leadership of Aristides, formed the confederacy of Delos. Some of the cities contributed ships; others, money. The annual assessments were made by Aristides. At first the contributions were deposited in a common treasury at the isle of Delos; but later in the treasury of Athens. As Athens controlled this fund she became more and more powerful. When the island of Naxos tried to retire from the Confederacy, Athens promptly compelled it to remain. Thus the other members of the Confederacy found themselves the vassals of Athens. The bond, at first voluntary, had become compulsory. Sparta was intensely jealous, but not strong enough as yet to interfere.

15. *Periclean Age, 459-431 B. C.* Athens now entered upon one of the most brilliant periods the world has ever seen. This period took its name from the great Athenian statesman, Pericles. He fostered the growth of her naval power; he encouraged art; he built the "long walls" of Athens, and the great temple of the Parthenon on the Acropolis.* Famous poets and orators began to flourish. The treasure, collected from the Confederacy, now amounted to ten million dollars, and a portion of it was used to beautify Athens. The city reached the acme of its glory.

Pericles and the People. Further changes were made in the courts of justice and other public offices, by which the power of the democracy was increased. Soldiers and members of the assembly were paid for their services, the people were flattered by the distribution of free tickets to the theatres. Pericles boasted that no foreign power in the world could withstand the Athenian navy. This was true as long as Pericles lived.

PELOPONNESIAN WAR, 431-404 B. C.

16. The cause of the war was the jealousy of Sparta aroused by the growth of Athens. The occasion of the breaking out of hostilities was the interference of Athens with the allies of Sparta.

*In this temple was the Statue of Athene, 47 feet in height. It was made by Phidias of ivory and gold. The golden robes were valued at \$50,000.

Athens had the better navy ; Sparta had the better army.

Sparta invades Attica. In 431 B. C. Sparta sent an army into Attica. Pericles, after gathering all the people and their flocks within the long walls, shut the gates of the cities, and sent out naval expeditions to harass the coast of Peloponnesus. As a result of the lack of sanitation, the plague raged in Athens and carried off one fourth of the citizens. Thucydides, who recovered from this pest, has left us a minute description of it. Its most illustrious victim was Pericles himself, who died in 429 B. C.*

The Demagogues. After the death of Pericles, the war went on with varying success. But there were no more wise statesmen in Athens. Instead there arose a number of demagogues, who won popularity by flattering the baser elements of the assembly, which now became a noisy and often vindictive mob. The worst of these demagogues was Cleon, a tanner, who often excited the assembly to pass most unwise measures. Pericles' policy of making every citizen a politician was working badly, now that there was no good man at the helm. Moreover, Athens had treated the members of the Confederacy as vassals rather than as free allies ; so that they had no love for her and were generally ready to revolt. It is wiser to found an empire on the good will of the governed than on force. Could Athens, however, have pursued another policy ?

(The great contemporary authority is Thucydides.)

17. *Alcibiades.* This famous man now rose to prominence. He was thoroughly reckless and unprincipled but so brilliant as a speaker and so handsome that he became the petted darling of the Athenians.

Sicilian Expedition, 412-413, B. C. While a nominal armistice was existing between Athens and Sparta, Alcibiades persuaded the Athenians to fit out an immense expedition against Syracuse. "All Athens sailed out of the Piræus (the chief harbor of the city) never again to return." Never before had such an armament left a Grecian port. There were in all over 200 triremes, 500 transports, and 6,000 troops. Through ill-fortune and the incompetency of the commanders, the whole expedition ended in complete failure and disaster. It was the death knell of Athens' political power. Creasy

*When he was dying, some one praised his many great deeds, but he roused himself to say : "My real pride is that no Athenian ever wore mourning through me."

regards the struggle before Syracuse as one of the "Fifteen decisive battles of the world."

Ægos-Potamos, 405, B. C. Finally the Athenian dependencies revolted in large numbers, and at *Ægos-Potamos* on the Hellespont, the Spartans, under Lysander, with the aid of Persia, captured the whole Athenian fleet. "That night," Xenophon tell us, "no man slept at Athens." The city itself, blockaded by land and sea, soon fell into the hands of the allies. The "long walls" were destroyed, and the Peloponnesian War was at an end. (Clare's History, Vol. 2, pp. 656-675.)

SPARTA SUPREME, 404-361 B. C.

18. After *Ægos-Potamos*, Sparta held the leadership of Greece for a generation; but her overbearing conduct aroused the indignation of Greece. Especially was this the case when, by the peace of Antalcidas (387), Sparta made concessions to Artaxerxes, King of Persia, and allowed him to dictate the policy of the Grecian states.

Thebes. Thebes now came to the front under her famous general Epaminondas, the greatest commander of his day. At the battle of Leuctra (371) he crushed the Spartan army and "made all Greece free." The supremacy of Thebes, however, lasted only during the life time of Epaminondas. He fell at the battle of Mantinea (362).

NOTE. When the enemies of Epaminondas once had him elected to the office of public scavenger, he declared: "If the office will not reflect honor on me, I will reflect honor on it."

MACEDONIAN PERIOD, 338-146 B. C.

Exhausted Greece fell an easy victim to a new and vigorous power from the north. This was Macedonia, of which country Philip was king. This famous monarch now began to interfere in the affairs of Greece. The Greeks had sadly degenerated; but Demosthenes, the great orator, by his burning addresses, persuaded the Athenians to take some measure of defense. At Chaeronea, in Bœotia (338, B. C.), however, Philip defeated the Athenians and Thebans, and made himself virtually master of Greece.

(Read the "Philippics" of Demosthenes and his life in Plutarch. See Clare's History, Vol. 2, pp. 704-721.)

19. *Alexander the Great*. As Philip was about to invade Persia, he was assassinated, and his son Alexander succeeded him. After asserting his power in Greece, Alexander marched on that

victorious expedition through the Persian empire into India which has made his name so famous. Many of his generals were Greeks and his army was largely composed of Greek hoplites. Thus it was not without pride that Greece watched his victorious career. At Issus and Arbela (331) the Persians were defeated, and Alexander found himself at the head of the greatest empire the world had ever seen.

Decline and Fall of Greece, 338-146, B. C. After the division of Alexander's empire, Macedonia continued to claim supremacy over Greece, but amid the many revolts, it proved a difficult task.

The Leagues. The study of the political history of Greece during this period is interesting. Because of their resistance to Macedonia, some of the Greek states made a brilliant attempt at a federal union. This was shown in the formation of the Achæon and Actolian leagues, the former of which bears some resemblance to our American federal union. The principle of representation, however, was not known to the ancient world.

Finally in 146 B.C., Rome which was making herself mistress of the world, absorbed Greece and made it a Roman province.* By her arts and sciences, however, Greece, it has been truly said, made a conquest of her conqueror.

GREEK CIVILIZATION.

20. While Rome has handed down to us models of law and government, the great contribution of Greece to the world's civilization was in art and letters. No nation has ever possessed a more exquisite sense of beauty than the Greeks. With them beauty was an object of worship. Clearness of outline and perfect proportion mark all their creations in art and literature. "Nothing in excess," was their motto. (Clare's History, Vol. 2, pp. 741-753.)

Architecture. The oldest form of Greek architecture is the Pelasgian, remains of which are found in the excavations at Mycenæ. (See Schliemann's work.)

The orders of architecture in the Greek temples are three: The Doric, which is severe and simple; the Ionic, which is more graceful;

*Macedonia had been conquered, and Greece was henceforth controlled by the governor of that province.

NOTE. (For good account of these leagues, see Woodrow Wilson's "The State" and Freeman's works.)

and the Corinthian, which is the most ornamental of all. They are distinguished chiefly by the form of the capital. The most famous temples were that of Delphi, the Parthenon at Athens, that of Diana at Ephesus, and the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus. The two last were placed among the "seven wonders of the world." A portion of the frieze of the Parthenon may be seen in the British museum.

21. *Sculpture and Painting.* In sculpture, the Greeks delighted to represent not only the victors in the games, but also their gods and heroes. Only a few names of artists among a multitude can be mentioned. The most famous in delineating the form, both human and divine, was perhaps Phidias in the age of Pericles. Later came Praxiteles, who made the Chidian Aphrodite, and Charos, who made the Colossus of Rhodes. This Colossus was one of the "seven wonders." Among the most famous of the remains of Greek sculpture are the Venus of Milo at Paris, and the Venus de Medici at Florence. These are priceless models for all artists.

Painting. Of Greek painting we have no remains except some recently discovered portraits and the decorations on vases and walls. But there were many famous works of which we have descriptions. The most distinguished names are those of Zeuxis, Parrhasius, and Apelles. The last was an artist attached to the court of Alexander.

22. *Literature.* It is a high tribute to the literature of the Greeks to say that it is not inferior to their sculpture. It was the most valuable literature produced by the ancient world; some scholars even maintain its superiority to that of the modern world. To appreciate the value of this literature, as of any literature, the works of the authors themselves must be read.

The general division of the literature is into three periods: (1) The period before 475 B. C.; (2) the Periclean or Golden Age, 475-300 B. C.; (3) the Alexandrine, 300 to Roman Conquest 146 B. C.

Epic and Lyric Poetry. In period 1 belong Homer and Hesiod, who were both epic poets. Among the lyric poets were Alcæus and Sappho. The latter was called by Plato "the tenth muse." Only fragments of these lyric poets remain.

Drama. Period 2 was a period of national greatness at Athens. It was then the drama flourished as never before. Of the dramatists

the most famous were Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes. Many of their works have come down to us. In this period, also, flourished the philosophers, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Aristotle's philosophy has controlled the thinking world for two thousand years. Socrates by his teaching and his tragic death has not yet ceased to have a profound influence upon the history of mankind. His philosophy is almost Christian in its purity and elevation. He left no works, but an exposition of his doctrines may be found in Plato and Xenophon.

23. *Stoics and Epicureans.* Partly to period 2 and partly to period 3 belong Zeno, the founder of the Stoics; and Epicurus, founder of the Epicureans.

The Stoics taught men to bear joy and pain with equanimity. In morals their precept was: Be virtuous because it is your duty.

The Epicureans taught that pleasure is the object of life, but true pleasure is to be obtained only through virtue. Hence their precept was: Be virtuous that you may be truly happy. The followers of Epicurus often abused his precept by forgetting virtue.

To *History* in period 2 belong also the great historians, Herodotus, Thucydides and Xenophon. Reference to their works has already been made.

24. *Oratory.* Themistocles and Pericles were both distinguished in oratory, and owed their influence over the people to this gift. But the most famous of all the orators—perhaps the most famous of all time—was Demosthenes, who tried to save Greece in the time of Philip. Many of his orations survive.

As the Greeks were fond of the drama and of oratory, these forms of literature were highly developed among them. They served as vehicles of education. It has been often declared that at Athens, in the best days of the republic, the general average of intelligence was superior to that of any modern nation.

Period 3. Alexandrine, so called because after the division of Alexander's empire the city of Alexandria, which he had founded in Egypt, became the nucleus of Greek culture and learning. It was a period of decline, however. Skepticism was taking the place of the old faith, and no works of real originality were produced.



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